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CX REPORT

No. 01/RP20/871/2903
DATE: 19th February, 1964
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COUNTRY : ARAB STATES/PALESTINE

SUBJECT : O Shuqairi's Plans for Formation of Palestinian Government and Commando Activities inside Israel

DATE OF INFORMATION : Last week January, 1964

SOURCE : A regular and reliable source from the journalist who spoke to Shuqairi
(reliability, access, consciousness)

REMARKS

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* glossary of terms overleaf

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871/2903/RP

15th February 1964

A34: STATES/PALISTINE/U.S.S.R

POLITICAL

SHUQAIRI's Plans for Formation of Palestinian Government
and Commando Activities inside Israel (January 1964)

✓ 1. SHUQAIRI, in an "off-the record" conversation with an Arab journalist in late January 1964, stated that he had a two-stage plan for the Arab recovery of Palestine. The first stage was to be the formation of a Palestinian government in exile; the second would be the formation of Palestinian commando groups who would undertake guerrilla activity in Israel with the object of drawing world attention to Palestine and so bringing about a United Nations intervention and solution.

2. SHUQAIRI said that this plan of action already had the blessing of the U.A.R., Syrian, and Jordanian governments who would allow the commandos to be infiltrated across their frontiers into Israel.

✓ 3. The main obstacle to this plan, according to SHUQAIRI, was the attitude of the Palestinians themselves, since many of them were not his supporters but backers of the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine headed by H.I. AMIN al-HUSSEINI, the ex-grand MUFTI. Only in the Gaza strip, because of the attitude of President NAASSER, could SHUQAIRI count on the backing of the Palestinians themselves, and for that reason it would be there that he would form his government. In Jordan and Syria the majority of the Palestinians were for al-HUSSEINI, though they would probably come over to him if the Jordanian and Syrian governments decided in the interests of

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restoring friendship with CAIRO to switch their support to him. In the Lebanon, the sympathies of the Palestinians were divided between the two groups.

4. According to SHUQIRI, al-HUSSEINI was unreconciled to SHUQIRI's becoming head of the government in exile, claiming that it was not for the Arab League or the Arab heads of states to choose the Palestinian leader but for the Palestinians themselves to do so.

5. Al-HUSSEINI in refusing to accept SHUQIRI's leadership was claiming the support of other unspecified countries, by which he presumably meant the Soviet Union. But SHUQIRI was confident that any hopes al-HUSSEINI might place on Russian support would prove unfounded.

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